

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~vehicle~~ support structure for storing accessories in an engine compartment accessories of a vehicle having a frame, comprising:

a first tubular ~~frame~~ member ~~having a transversely extending portion and a longitudinally extending portion forming a part of the frame~~;

a second tubular ~~frame~~ member forming a part of the frame, the second tubular member being disposed at least in part adjacent to the first tubular ~~frame~~ member and having a ~~transversely extending base support portion that is spaced rearwardly from the transversely extending portion of the first tubular frame member~~; and

an accessory tray secured to a side wall of the first tubular frame member and to a top surface of the base support portion of the second tubular frame member.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ support structure of claim 1, wherein the tubular ~~frame~~ members are hydroformed.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ support structure of claim 1, wherein the accessory tray has a base portion secured to the base support portion.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ support structure of claim 1, wherein the accessory tray has a front wall ~~adjacent to the longitudinally extending portion~~ and a transverse side wall adjacent to the first tubular ~~frame member transverse extending portion~~.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~vehicle~~ battery support assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a first tubular ~~frame~~ member that forms part of a frame of the vehicle, the first tubular member having a transversely extending portion and a longitudinally extending portion;

a second tubular ~~frame~~ member that forms part of the frame of the vehicle, the second tubular member being disposed at least in part adjacent to the first tubular ~~frame~~ member and having a transversely extending base support portion that is spaced rearwardly from the transversely extending portion of the first tubular ~~frame~~ member; and

a battery tray having a supporting surface and at least two upstanding side walls, wherein the battery tray is secured to both the transversely extending portion and by one upstanding side wall, wherein the battery tray is secured to the longitudinally extending portion of the first tubular ~~frame~~ member by another upstanding side wall, and wherein the battery tray is secured to the base support portion of the second tubular ~~frame~~ member.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the tubular frame members are hydroformed.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the battery tray has a base portion secured to the base support portion.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ battery support assembly of claim 5, wherein the battery tray has a front wall adjacent to the longitudinally extending portion and a transverse side wall adjacent to the first tubular frame member transverse extending portion.

9. (Currently amended) A battery support structure for a vehicle having at least one battery, comprising:

a battery tray having a battery supporting surface and a plurality of upstanding walls;

a first tubular frame member forming part of a frame of the vehicle;

a second tubular frame member forming part of the frame of the vehicle and being secured to the first tubular frame member;

the first and second tubular frame members defining a plurality of side wall supports and a base support, the battery supporting surface of the battery tray being supported by the base support and ~~each~~ at least one of the upstanding walls being secured to one of the ~~sidewall~~ side wall supports.

10. (Currently amended) A battery support structure for a vehicle having at least one battery, comprising:

a first tubular frame member forming part of a front end of the vehicle;

a second tubular frame member forming part of the front end of the vehicle and being secured to the first tubular frame member;

a ~~base~~ tray support being defined by the first and second tubular frame members, the ~~base~~ tray support ~~comprising~~ defining a lower portion and a side portion; and

a battery tray having a battery supporting surface and a plurality of upstanding side walls, the battery

S/N: 10/708,981
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2005

Atty Dkt No. 81094071/FMC1692PUS

supporting surface overlying the lower portion and at least one of the plurality of upstanding side walls are secured to the side portion.